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ANNUAL LECTURES DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF PROFESSOR ANDRZEJ LASOTA

Andrzej Lasota died on December 28, 2006, in Katowice, at the age of 74. He was a great mathematician who strongly influenced the development of several branches of mathematics, as well as the careers of many younger mathematicians. His death came as a shock to all those who had both the privilege and the good fortune of being his students, his colleagues, his friends, particularly, those at the Silesian University of Katowice where Professor Lasota was working since 1976.

On October 23, 2007, the Council of the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry of the Silesian University of Katowice, wishing to commemorate so much regretted person and work, made a resolution on establishing

Professor Andrzej Lasota Lecture

to be organized annually on January, starting 2008. The Chapter of the Lecture, established by the Faculty Council, has been assigned a task of inviting outstanding scholars in the theory and applications of sciences to deliver a Lecture. Till now the following Lectures were presented:

- Czesław Olech, *Wspomnienia o Seminarium Profesora Ważewskiego i o jego uczestnikach* (*Memories of Professor Ważewski's Seminar and its attendants*), (January 4, 2008);
- Michael C. Mackey, *Exploring the World with Mathematics*, (January 16, 2009);
- Andrzej Pelczar, *Opis matematyki. Opis w matematyce. Matematyka jako opis* (*A description of mathematics. A description in mathematics. Mathematics as a description*), (January 15, 2010).

Recently, the editors of *Annales Mathematicae Silesianae* got an idea, commonly accepted by the Faculty community, to publish *in extenso* the Lectures delivered. By courtesy of Professor Michael Mackey, in the present issue of our journal, we are able to bring forward the full text of his presentation given

last year. We gratefully acknowledge Professor Andrzej Pelczar's promise to deliver the content of his 2010 lecture in writing, hoping that it will be published in the next volume of the *Annales*. We still trust that, in a not too far future, Professor Czesław Olech will be so kind to give us the text of his inaugural lecture presented in 2008.

In what follows, the already announced text of Professor Mackey's lecture, will be preceded by a presentation of Andrzej Lasota biography, written by Ryszard Rudnicki.

On behalf of the Chapter of the Lecture

Roman Ger